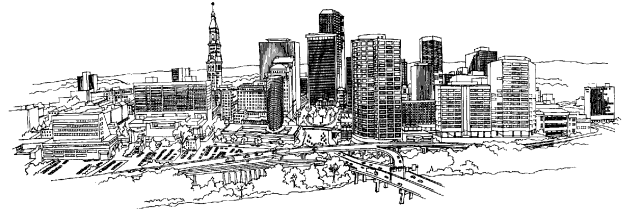




PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

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ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE
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Commissioners

Acting Chair:

Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH

Co-chair:

William Upholt

Secretary

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Members :

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Russell Williams

Staff:

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**Testimony of Mark Mitchell MD, MPH, Chair
and William Upholt, Co-Chair**

Advisory Commission on the Environment (ACOTE), City of Hartford

**in support of
Proposed Senate Bill 67:**

**An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks
Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill**

Chairperson Meyer, Chairperson Gentile and Members of the Committee: My name is Mark Mitchell and I am the Chair of Advisory Commission on the Environment (ACOTE) for City of Hartford. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today in support of proposed Senate Bill No. 67: An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Community members work with ACOTE to promote a more inclusive economy that builds the cultural vitality of the city and preserves the natural environment.

Last summer, Hartford launched a Quality of Life Initiative, a collaborative effort involving residents, businesses, Police, city departments, and other community stakeholders to enforce neighborhood standards throughout the city. Throughout community conversations in August and September it was clear that city residents believe combatting litter is important to improving quality of life.

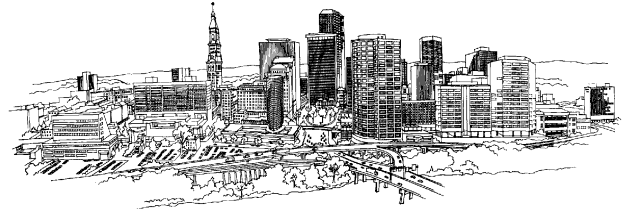
ACOTE and members of our community are also deeply concerned with the CRRA trash incinerator in Hartford's South Meadows. For decades, our community has accepted the trash of over seventy towns. Approximately one third of the state's trash is brought into and processed in our community. The trucks wear down our roads and release air and noise pollution. The incinerator releases toxic chemicals like mercury into the air we breathe. Not surprisingly, Hartford has one of the highest asthma rates in the state.

We know the bottle bill works. Bottles covered by the bottle bill are more likely to get recycled than those not, and are less likely to end up as litter. An updated bottle bill will save Hartford and its taxpayers money in litter clean up, waste collection and waste disposal costs. It will make room in our recycling bins for other recyclables. It will improve our quality of life by getting litter off of our streets and out of our parks. It will mean less trash



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from around the state getting burned within our borders. We urge the committee to support this commonsense update.

We also recommend the committee consider strengthening the bill:

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- Modify the language in statute to more generally refer to all single serving beverage containers, rather than listing out each type of container to be covered. This will ensure that the law covers all single serving beverage containers and does not need to be updated again as new products enter the market.
- Raise the handling fee to match regional standards. This will ensure the viability of redemption centers, which increase the ease of redemption for consumers.
- Consider following the example of Maine by included wine and liquor bottles in the bottle bill. This will remove a significant amount of glass from single stream collection, where it has limited value.
- Include nips, which are a significant litter problem

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today.

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